

THE BATTLE OF DROOP MOUNTAIN.

Allen F. Jones

The battle of Droop Mountain was fought on the 6th day of November, 1863. The confederate forces consisted of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Colonel George Patton (of Kanawha County, afterward killed at Winchester), Commanding; the 19th Virginia Infantry, Colonel W. P. Thompson Commanding; the 20th Virginia Infantry, Colonel W. W. Arnett Commanding; the 14th Virginia Cavalry, Colonel James Cochran, Commanding; Jackson's and Chapman's Batteries, and Edgar's and Derrick's Battallions. The entire force was under command of General John Echols. This force, on the first day of the month, was lying at Meadow Bluff, in Greenbrier County.

The federal force was composed of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, 23rd and 24th Ohio Infantry, the 5th, 6th, and 10th, West Virginia Infantry, and one battery of Artillery. This force had been stationed at Beverly in Randolph County. The federal force was under command of General W. W. Averell.

The movement of the two armies preceding this battle have been traced by competent authority to have been as follows: In the first week in November, 1863, General Averell ordered General Duffie to meet him at 2 p. m., November 7th, at Lewisburg, and Duffie marched from Kanawha, 120 miles. Averell marched from Beverly and had 110 miles to go. Averell reached Lewisburg on Saturday November 7th, at 2 p. m., and found that Duffie had got there at 10 a. m.

Averell left Beverly on Sunday and came over Cheat mountain by way of Cheat Bridge and marched by Camp Bartow, where they left the Staunton & Parkersburg Turnpike and took the road leading by Greenbank to Huntersville.

They reached Huntersville on Wednesday at noon, and there Averell ~~heard that~~ ~~Colonel W. P. Thompson, with the 19th Virginia Cavalry, was at~~ ~~Marlinton, at the Greenbrier Bridge.~~ Averell sent the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry and the 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry down Beaver Creek ~~to ford the river eight miles below~~ south of Marlinton to cut off ~~Thompson at~~ Stephen Hole Run on the Marlin-Lewisburg Turnpike, and sent the 2nd and 8th West Virginia mounted infantry to Marlinton with Ewing's Battery. Thompson, apprehending his danger, left in a hurry and cut a barricade of trees across the pike on Price Hill, a mile or so distant from the bridge, and beat the federal forces to the pike at Stephen Hole Run and joined up with the confederate troops in the Levels and there turned and stopped the advance. There was some cannon firing that day across the valley of Stamping Creek at Mill Point. Averell, at Huntersville, got word in the night time from his command at Marlinton and from Stephen Hole Run, that Thompson had escaped the trap.

Averell moved his Huntersville army down Beaver Creek, Thursday, starting at 3 a. m. and reaching Mill Point at 8 a. m. He had ordered the Colonel in charge of the Marlinton army to cut out the barricade on Price Hill and join him at Mill Point, and both wings of the army arrived at Mill Point at the same time. The effect of this was to put the Confederates in motion and they retired from the plains around Hillsboro to the heights overlooking that town, and erected embankments and fortifications on the brow of the mountain overlooking the Levels where the pike tops the mountain going south.

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Averell says that the reason he did not attack on Thursday, when he came upon the Confederates in the Levels was that he was thirty four miles from Lewisburg and that if he drove his enemy forward that day they would get by Lewisburg before Euffix Duffie would have arrived from Kanawha.

On Thursday then about all that was done was to try to go around the Confederates and cut them off from the mountain, but Jackson beat them to it and left the Levels to be occupied by Averell.

Averell got his troops into position before daylight the next morning. He sent the 14th Pennsylvania to the left and they took up their stand near the Locust Creek bridge and appeared to be ready to charge up the mountain. Kesper's Battery was placed on the high ground above the

G. C. & GEORGIA A. BEARD.

Note dated April 6th, 1934, for \$10,000.00, due August 6th, 1934, and secured by a deed of trust dated October 16th, 1924, on all the real estate and personal property owned by the Marlinton Hotel Company. Said debt with interest is as follows:

Principal	\$10,000.00
Interest from 8-6-1934 to 1-1-1935	<u>241.64</u>
Total	\$10,241.64

Your Commissioner reports that the liens of the Bank of Marlinton and G. C. and Georgia A. Beard are of equal dignity, both being secured by the same deed of trust, the Rockbridge National Bank of Lexington, Virginia, having assigned its lien by virtue of said deed of trust to G. C. and Georgia A. Beard.

LIENS OF THE THIRD CLASS.

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK OF MARLINTON.

Note dated April 14th, 1934, for \$5,360.00, with a credit of \$60.00, due July 14th, 1934, and secured by a deed of trust dated October 15th, 1926, on all the real estate and personal property owned by the Marlinton Hotel Company. Said debt with interest is as follows:

Principal	\$5,300.00
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Interest from 7-14-1934 to 1-1-1935	<u>148.10</u>
Total	\$5,448.10

LIENS OF THE FOURTH CLASS.

H. KELMENSEN.